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can

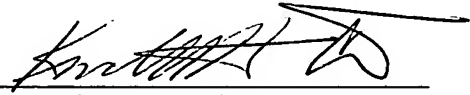
easily cut as the perforated slits 60. On the other hand, if the slit width 64 is greater than 2.0 mm, the slit width 64 is relatively large compared to the seam width 66, which is undesirable because the following two inconveniences are more likely to occur. Namely, the first inconvenience is that all or portions of the uncut slits 60 of the external patch 30 which has been cut to the desired size will be more likely to tear unexpectedly when the covering material 36 is peeled off just before use or when the used external patch 30 is peeled off from the attachment site after use. The other inconvenience is that even while attached, all or portions of the uncut slits 60 will be more likely to tear due to movement of the attachment site or even without tearing, the slit sections will be more likely to rise from the attachment site. In the following explanation, the terms "undesired cutting" and "slit rising" will be used for the former and latter cases, respectively. In addition, the slit width 64 is also preferably not larger than the seam width 66, because contaminants will tend to adhere to the cut holes of the slits 60.

Please see Appendix for amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By:


Kendrew H. Colton
Registration No. 30,368
Telephone No. (202) 419-7000
Facsimile No. (202) 419-7007

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
1801 K Street, NW
Suite 401L
Washington, DC 20006-1201
Telephone: (202) 419-7000
Facsimile: (202) 419 -7007